

SENTENCING



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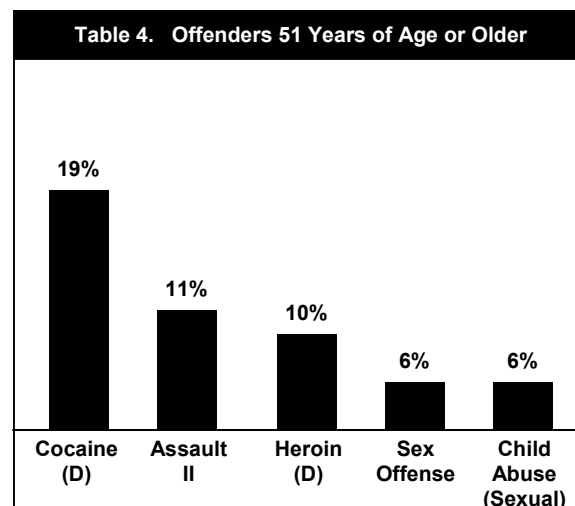
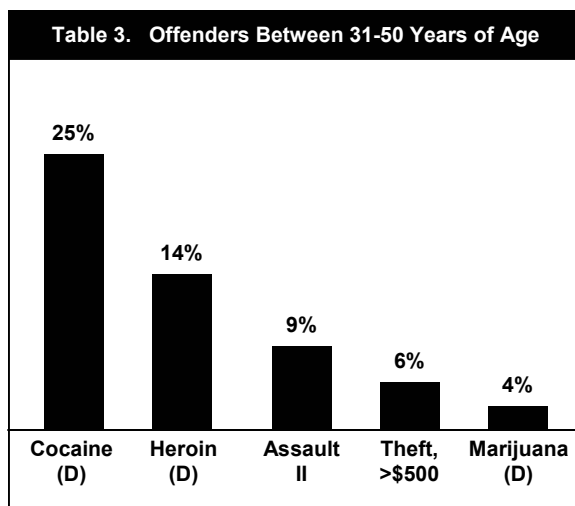
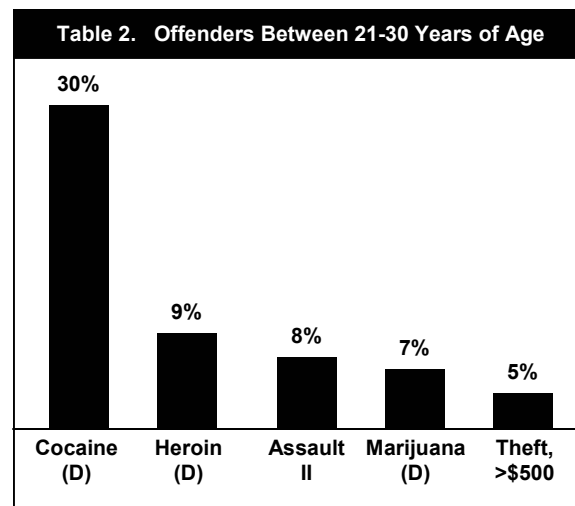
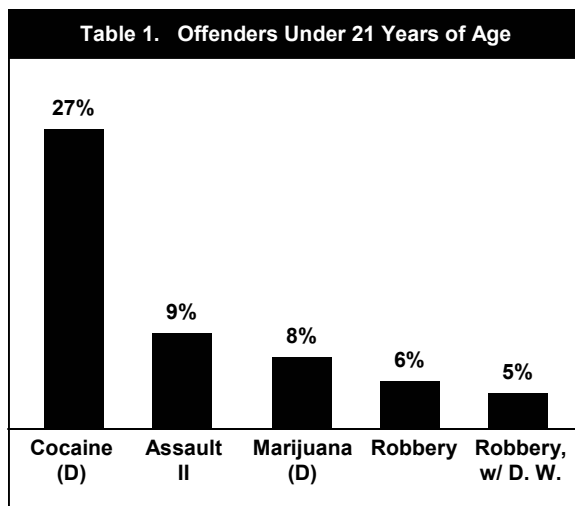
DECEMBER 13, 2002

Offense Distribution by Age Groups, 1997-2001

by Dave Bieri, Jill Farrell, and Gary Locust

The following charts display the most frequent offenses sentenced in Maryland circuit courts by age group between 1997 and 2001. *Distribution of Cocaine* is the most frequent offense across all age groups. *Distribution of Heroin* is the second most frequent offense for two age groups, 21-30 years old (8%) and 31-50 years old (14%). Important to note, both the oldest and youngest age groups had *Assault, Second Degree* as their second most frequent offense. People under 21 had *Assault, Second Degree* (8%), *Robbery* (6%), and *Robbery with a Deadly Weapon* (5%) among their most frequent crimes, which made them the most violent age group in this analysis. The oldest group, ages 51 and older, had *Sex Offense* (6%) and *Child Abuse, Sexual* (6%) among their most frequent offenses. *Distribution of Cocaine* and *Assault, Second Degree* were present in all age groups' most frequent offenses.

Top Five Most Frequent Offenses



The Maryland State Commission on Criminal Sentencing Policy (SCCSP) collects and reports data on sentencing practices in the State's circuit courts. "Sentencing Fax" periodically publishes information about Maryland sentencing for state courts and policy makers. Its full collection of research, data, and reports can be found on its website, www.msccsp.org.